

CLAIMS:

1. A wheelchair lift apparatus for attachment to an automobile comprising:

a platform on which the wheelchair is arranged to be received;

5 a platform support;

a frame;

the frame having thereon mounting members for attachment to an underside of the automobile arranged to support the frame on the vehicle with the frame horizontal and generally transverse to a length of the vehicle;

10 the platform support being movable while supported on the frame in a generally horizontal plane from a retracted transport position underneath the automobile to an extended operating position projecting outwardly to one side of the automobile;

the platform being mounted on the platform support for movement

15 relative thereto, with the platform support in the extended operating position, upwardly and downwardly from a lowered mounting position of the platform in which the wheelchair can enter onto the platform to a raised entry position in which the wheelchair can move from the platform onto a floor of the automobile.

20 2. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform is carried on parallel levers each of which has one end pivotally attached to the platform and the other end pivotally attached to the platform support and which actuated by pulling one or more of the levers by one or more actuators carried on the platform support.

3. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform support is arranged such that it can slide into a hollow interior of the frame.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform support and the frame are generally rectangular in plan with front and rear edges parallel and at right angles to the length of the automobile.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein the platform has front and rear edges arranged at the front and rear edges of the platform support.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a hollow container within which the platform and platform support can be received.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the frame defines a depth on the automobile such that it is retained on the vehicle underneath the vehicle during travel and wherein the platform and platform support are contained within the depth of the frame.

15 8. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein movement of the platform relative to the platform support is effected by one or more actuators which are received so as to extend along the platform support parallel to the direction of sliding movement of the platform support.

9. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein movement of the platform relative to the platform support is effected by one or more elongate actuators which are received so as to extend along the platform support in a plane generally parallel to the plane of the platform.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the actuators

comprise cylinders.

11. The apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the platform is carried on parallel levers each of which has one end pivotally attached to the platform and the other end pivotally attached to the platform support and which
5 actuated by pulling one or more of the levers by one or more actuators carried on the platform support and wherein each actuator pulls a chain portion which passes over an arc member at a base of a respective one of the levers..

12. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the frame includes a pair of parallel spaced rails extending at right angles to the length of the
10 automobile and wherein the platform support comprising a pair of parallel arms each arranged along a respective one of the rails and slidable therealong.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 12 wherein the platform is carried on two pairs of parallel levers with each pair arranged on a respective one of the arms.

15 14. The apparatus according to Claim 13 wherein the platform is raised and lowered by a pair of actuators each arranged to extend along a respective one of the arms and operable to pull on a respective one of the levers.

15. The apparatus according to Claim 14 wherein the actuators comprise cylinders.

20 16. The apparatus according to Claim 14 wherein each actuator pulls a chain portion which passes over an arc member at a base of a respective one of the levers.

17. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform can be

lowered to a height below that of the platform support and raised to a height above the platform support.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform and platform support are carried wholly by the frame so as to be cantilevered in use from
5. the side of the automobile.